



News From Congresswoman Anna Eshoo

# Emergency Preparedness

14th Congressional District, California

February 2005



## Dear Friends,

Over the last month, the devastating tsunami in Southeast Asia and the flooding and subsequent mudslides in California have reminded us that our region is not immune to the threat of natural disaster. We remember too well the 1989 Loma Prieta Earthquake and the 1998 El Niño flooding and mudslides. In order to be ready for emergencies, it's important to sit down with your loved ones and make sure you have adequate preparations in place should a disaster strike our community.

On the reverse side of this newsletter you'll find suggestions and a checklist to help guide you in preparing your own evacuation strategy and survival kit. Also listed are local phone numbers that will be useful to prepare for an emergency. Please take time to review these suggestions with your family. You can also find this and additional information on my website at [eshoo.house.gov](http://eshoo.house.gov).

While individual citizens should take steps to prepare for such unfortunate events, government and community organizations are also working daily to prepare and respond. I'm very proud of our local first responders and the relief organizations in our community who have taken up this charge. In Washington, I've been working hard to support these efforts and to bolster the resources available to help us better prepare and respond to a crisis.

- *Tsunami protection:* I've cosponsored the *Ocean and Coastal Observation System Act*. This bill will help create a global ocean monitoring system that will help forecast weather and natural hazards, including tsunamis. I'm also pleased that the Administration has pledged to invest \$37.5 million to upgrade and expand U.S. tsunami detection and warning systems, deploying 32 advanced detection buoys.
- *Enhanced-911:* In December, Congress passed my legislation, the *ENHANCE-911 Act*, which I've been working on for the past decade. This new law provides emergency call centers with funding to obtain the technology needed to locate mobile phone callers when they call into 911. Today, less than 60 percent of call centers have this capability, yet one-third of all calls to 911 are made from mobile phones. This legislation will go a long way to ensure this life-saving technology is widely available, particularly in rural areas.
- *FEMA Mitigation Assistance:* I led my California colleagues in sending a letter to House leaders urging immediate action on legislation that I've cosponsored to reverse a recent IRS ruling that makes FEMA mitigation assistance subject to personal income taxes. FEMA mitigation programs are designed to assist property owners in taking preventative steps to protect themselves from flooding and other threats. Taxing this assistance creates a huge disincentive to take steps that will safeguard lives and property. I've also contacted IRS Commissioner Mark Everson and urged him to reverse this harmful decision immediately.
- *129<sup>th</sup> Rescue Wing:* I'm very proud to report to you that the 129<sup>th</sup> California Air National Guard Rescue Wing will remain stationed at Moffett Federal Airfield in Mountain View (instead of moving to Modesto). The 129<sup>th</sup> is one of our nation's premier rescue units and their location guarantees a rapid and expert response in the event of emergencies.
- *First Responders:* Since the creation of the Department of Homeland Security in 2002, I've worked with local first responders to ensure that our community is receiving its full share of federal support for security and preparedness needs. We've secured hundreds of thousands of dollars in federal aid through DHS grants, and I've written numerous letters to Secretary Ridge and others addressing the urgent needs of our community's heroic public safety personnel. In my view, our community's first responders are among the very best in the nation, and it's an honor to partner with them for the good of the community.

I hope this newsletter will be a helpful tool for you and your family. Remember, it's important for all families to take the time to be prepared and to periodically review your plans.

If you have any questions you can contact my office at (831) 335-2020, (408) 245-2339, or (650) 323-2984 or by e-mail through my website at [eshoo.house.gov/contact.aspx](http://eshoo.house.gov/contact.aspx).

Sincerely,

Anna G. Eshoo  
Member of Congress

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515  
Official Business



**M.C.**  
Presorted Standard

Address

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### Planning For An Evacuation

- 1) Know the disasters most likely to affect your area. (In our region, earthquakes, flooding, and mudslides are among the largest threats.)
- 2) Pick two meeting places—one outside your home in case of a fire and another further away in case evacuation of your neighborhood or community is necessary. Discuss ways to safely reach these destinations.
- 3) Find out the policy of your local school concerning release of your children in an emergency, like an earthquake.
- 4) Choose an out-of-state contact person that you and your family can check in with should you be separated.
- 5) Post and review emergency numbers important to your family and your specific community (see the list below).
- 6) Meet with your neighbors and local authorities and discuss ways to help each other in the event of a disaster.
- 7) Review basic first aid and CPR techniques.

### Preparing a Survival Kit

For more information, see the Department of Homeland Security Website – [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov)

- Food** – Should be non-perishable and ready to eat without preparation. Suggested items include canned meats, fruits and vegetables, peanut butter, granola bars, crackers and trail mix.
- Water** – One gallon per person per day should be stored in safe durable containers. It's recommended that you include a three-day supply for each person in your family.
- First Aid Kit** – First Aid kit should allow you to provide basic care for minor injuries. It should include sterile bandages of assorted sizes, gauze pads, sterile roller bandages, moistened towelettes, antiseptic, medical tape, pain medication and scissors.
- Additional Supplies** – Items should be added for your specific environment. For example additional blankets and rain gear, a flashlight with extra batteries, matches and signal flares.

*\*\*\*Keep in mind any specific medical conditions you or a family member may have as well as the special needs of small children, infants, and elderly family members.*

### Annette Marcum and the Volunteers of Valley Churches United

#### Heroes of Disaster Relief and Preparedness

After the 1982 Love Creek disaster, citizens of the Santa Cruz Mountains recognized the need for a community-oriented disaster relief program, and under the leadership of Annette Marcum, Valley Churches United (VCU) opened in 1985 with the mission of providing food and shelter in times of crisis.

Since then, Annette and the VCU volunteers have responded to every major community emergency, including the 1989 earthquake and the flooding of 1998. Day-to-day, VCU also runs charity operations, including a food pantry for those in financial need. For their service, Annette and VCU have received numerous awards, including honors from the Office of the President, FEMA, and others.

Thank you Annette and all the volunteers at VCU for your outstanding service.

### Local Emergency Contacts

**Santa Cruz County Office of Emergency Services:**  
(831) 458-7150; <http://sccounty01.co.santa-cruz.ca.us/oes/oesmain2.htm>

**Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office:**  
(831) 471-1121; [www.scsheriff.com](http://www.scsheriff.com)

**Santa Cruz County Public Works:**  
(831) 454-2160; [www.dpw.co.santa-cruz.ca.us](http://www.dpw.co.santa-cruz.ca.us)

**Federal Emergency Management Agency:**  
[www.fema.gov/preparedness](http://www.fema.gov/preparedness)

**National Weather Service:**  
(831) 656-1725; [www.wrh.noaa.gov/mtr](http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/mtr)